

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1277

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN WEST BENGAL

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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the present status of oil exploration in West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government is considering actively to offer some blocks for oil and gas exploration in West Bengal; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a):Oil Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) hold one onland nomination Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) block – Contai in the State of West Bengal. During 2003-04, ONGC drilled an exploratory well Gobindpur-1 in the block which gave some minor gas indications. At present, 3-D seismic data acquisition is in progress.

Another exploration block, WB-ONN-2000/1, was awarded to an ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.(IOC) consortium under the second round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP). The block was relinquished on 27.9.2003 by the consortium after completing the work programme of exploration phase-I i.e. acquisition, processing and interpretation of 100 Line Kilometer(LKM) of seismic data.

It may also be noted that 3 shallow water and 2 deep water blocks are being explored in the North-East Coast area, part of which falls off the coast of West Bengal offshore. Exploratory wells are in the process of being spudded in the North-East Coast area. Besides, four discoveries have been made in the North-East Coast area by Reliance Industries Ltd. in the block NEC-OSN-97/2 and are being appraised.

(b) & (c): No exploration block in the State of West Bengal is on offer under the fifth round of NELP. However, existing exploration work would be reviewed and depending upon the results of review/analysis, exploration block(s) may be carved out in West Bengal also.